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TUESDAY, - - - NOVEMBER 23.

Duffy calls a ring in politics for revenue only a "little combine."

"Turn Back, O Time, Turn Back in Thy Flight" is the song of the pickled Bourbon.

The deal in Terminal and Danville places 2,700 miles of road under the same management.

The Herald's correspondent discovered that there was madness in the Romanoff family—and hence the humor of the present Czar.

Senator Van Wyck is in Washington, and is quoted as "cheerful."

He says the Legislature will consist of 96 Republicans and 37 Democrats; but Van poses between the two parties as an independent patriot.

The number thirteen is unlucky. Here are the thirteen little boddlers: McLaughlin and Kenny dead; Dempsey, De Lacy, Sing, McCabe crazy; McQuade on trial; Cleary, Reilly, and O'Neill ready to be tried; Fullgraff and Duffy as State's evidence.

Adjutant-General Drum recommends that soldiers be allowed to purchase their discharge from the army in cases where there are good reasons. At present the soldier can only get off by favor, and it seems reasonable that if there are any exceptions to the rule allowed, the one suggested by General Drum is right.

The Redwood land-jobbers, of California, who gobbled an enormous tract of timber-land, were allowed to make barrels of money, and when prosecuted, the Government managed to let the thieves escape. Secretary Lamar is trying to bring them to bay, and it remains with Attorney-General Garland whether or not they escape again.

The Chief of Bureau of Naval Construction and Repair reports our navy in a sorry condition.

The Lackawanna is hardly fit to be converted into a receiving ship. The Tennessee "can be kept in service but a few months longer." The Shenandoah is in a hopeless condition. The Franklin, the Wabash, and the Minnesota are not better off, and thirteen ironclads look dingy enough to suit the most fastidious junk dealer.

The cry of the Labor Herald has dwindled down to a plaintive note like the sad weird serenade of the "whippoorwill."

But still Brother Mullen appears to think that there may be some speculation in those dull, dim eyes of a dead sensation.

The illustrious brother has not yet discovered the exact size of a "walking delegate." His gigantic intellect has not tackled the proportions of the bug that learned entomologists illustrate with a musical diagram of the "hum."

He thinks, or affects to think, that the "League" represents an ostracism of the labor unions.

In vain, Brother Mullen. You cannot work that. We can show you hundreds of members of the League who employ Union men at Union rates, and who are better friends and more active friends of the workmen than you.

Pipe on, O whippoorwill.

CALL THE QUESTION.

"What can we do to get rid of the debt?" This is the question which is being propounded all over the State.

One way, is to repudiate it. But it needs a popular convention to do that.

The convention would consist of men of all parties and colors, from true-blue Democrat to black-and-tan.

The Republicans have lately demonstrated the fact that they can win an election without Mahone.

The National Republican party will not carry a Repudiator any longer.

Then it is likely that the Convention would be composed somewhat as follows:

I. The Democracy under the lead of Colonel Ruffin's policy.

II. The Democracy that will not follow Colonel Ruffin.

III. The Republicans with the solid negro vote against Repudiation.

Now, upon the question of repudiation, or debt settlement on the proposition of the creditors to settle on the basis of the surplus revenue, let us see whether we can draw the party lines.

The conservative element of the Democratic party will say that they tried the Riddleberger bill to save the State from Mahone rule, but that it is a failure, and has resulted in a conflict between the State and the United States Supreme Court. They will say that a practical proposition from the creditors should be met in a business-like and sensible way.

They will say that they will not follow a Mahoneite party put under the rule of rank Mahoneite bossism. There are 50,000 Democrats in Virginia who will say this when the issue comes. They will not be bulldozed by a "policy" which is more Mahoneite than Democratic.

The muster-roll of the Democratic party for the Repudiation policy would be at the highest one can estimate about 65,000.

As we stated long ago, the Republicans do not intend to go for Repudiation. In such a Convention as proposed, they will muster their whole force for a fair debt-settlement.

Let us see what their numbers would be.

The lowest figure that Mahone has polled would leave the Democrats 20,000 behind. But considering the disgust among the Democrats for the negative policy in Federal politics, and the Mahone policy in State politics, we think that, on a repudiation platform, the present leaders of the Virginia Democracy, after a thorough canvass, would cover themselves up so deep in popular contempt that if Mahone, their only friend, were taken out of affairs the people would think anything better than the emasculated Democracy at present prevailing—that bullies poor country farmers and dres not arrest men in Richmond guilty of the same offense.

THE ELECTORAL COUNT.

One of the first duties of Congress should be to define by law, strictly and positively, the manner of counting the electoral vote. The Constitution has evidently left it to Congress to make an explicit provision for this most important official act of the representative body.

It says: "The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all certificates, and the votes shall then be counted."

This leaves no room for the absurd claim that the President of the Senate might be the umpire and throw out or count in any votes that might suit his ideas.

The opening and the counting are two different things, but the experience of 1876 is very potent to remind us that the Constitution cites a principle which needs a clear piece of legislation on the part of Congress to carry it out.

If the Dispatch will take down the dictionary and turn to the word *Nimphoo*, it will find this definition: A remarkable and eccentric animal that can run up and down on a fence all day, straddling the same with such agility that it defies the beholder to tell which side it is on, except when the pursuer is on the opposite side; and then it performs the marvelous feat of swallowing itself, after which it bends its ear to the rails and listens complacently to the fast-fading sound of the bewildered pursuer's footsteps.

Secretary Endicott says officially that the reports of the Chiefs of Bureaus contain a great deal of superfluous matter that does not belong strictly to business.

In fact it has nothing to do with the case.

Editor Cutting has not yet conquered Mexico.

It is pleasant to hear that Violet Cameron will leave America disgusted.

SPECIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. George W. (not Washington) Childs positively declines to run for Mayor of Philadelphia.

It is suggested to Bob Ingersoll when he descends on the needed reform to stop "bottling up land;" that he should set the noble example and uncork his share of the Dorsey ranch in New Mexico, and another big grab he acquired in Louisiana by the very means, he affects to hate—at fifty cents a lecture, Sunday night.

The last African explorer narrates how a gentle tribe of natives on the Congo river said that they liked to eat men when they could get them, but that not being very warlike it was a rare delicacy confined to the chiefs.

Another tribe complained that the white men did not offer them any human rations as a pledge of friendship.

A strutting Gypsy would place Virginia farmer that if he held a West Virginia certain hollow stump and leave it there all night it would be doubled in the morning. The farmer tried it, and sure enough found \$50 in the stump. Then the Gypsy advised the farmer to put all he had, \$700, in the stump and draw out \$1,400 in the morning. The farmer took this advice, and now is looking for a Gypsy who he says has stolen \$700 from him.

Randolph & English have on exhibition a most beautiful antiquarian curiosity of literature in the shape of an ancient Egyptian poem, illustrated. It is said to have been presented to the editor of the Times by Consul-General George Butler, who recently died in Washington, to whom it was given by Ali Achman, Pacha, Adjutant-General of Cavalry to the Khedive of Egypt. The famous G. H. B., as he was known in the newspaper world, was Consul-General to Egypt in 1868, and afterwards on the staff of Don Carlos, in Spain. George was a prince in Bohemia, but he loved wine. He was married twice, and his widow still passes for a single lady to all but the few who have seen her take poor George out of the gutter.

Charles Francis Adams, the son of a President and grandson of a President, has gone to the great majority.

His own words to Mr. Tilden, penned on March 5, 1877, best show the character of the man:

"MY DEAR SIR: On this day, when you ought to have been the President of the United States, I seize the opportunity to bear my testimony to the calm and dignified manner in which you have passed through this great trial.

"It is many years since I ceased to be a party man; hence I have endeavored to judge of public affairs and men rather by their merits than by the name they take.

"It is a source of gratification to me to think that I made the right choice in the late election. I could never have been reconciled to the elevation, by the smallest aid of mine, of a person, however respectable in private life, who must forever carry upon his brow the stamp of fraud first triumphant in American history. No subsequent action, however meritorious, can wash away the letters of that record. Very respectfully yours, 'CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.'"

THE PROSPEROUS SOUTH.

A Northern View of It.

The South is more prosperous than any other section of the country to-day. Facts abound in proof of this. During the last six years a thousand million dollars have been added to the wealth of the old twelve Southern States. Nothing to be compared to this has ever happened in the land before. A kindred advance has been seen in one or two quickly-growing Western States—for instance—but no group of States can in any wise approach the record. The South after all its loss of blood and waste of wealth, has grown stronger than even in the aristocratic ante-bellum days it claimed to be. Industry has supplanted sloth; work is no longer a menial's badge. The turning point in the South's condition came when half of her great cotton crop was raised by white labor, as official figures show the last crop was. And here is a line worth a volume in testimony of the new order of things South: "In Alabama during this last year every dollar of tax assessed has been collected, excepting only \$50." Is there any Northern State that can show so clear a bill of health from the tax-collector? People do not pay taxes when they have no money.—N. Y. Times.

BETWEEN LABOR AND CAPITAL.

The Employed Against the Unemployed.

The leaders of the new labor party are evidently beginning to comprehend the magnitude of the task they have undertaken. They have already officially declared that the principal obstacle to securing higher wages and fewer hours of work is the competition of unemployed workers, and that until this obstacle is removed the efforts of trades unions can never be sure of success. They propose, indeed, as a remedy for the evil the abolition of private property in land, but the inadequacy of such a measure to produce the desired result is apparent upon its face. The problem involved in the labor question cannot be solved in any such rough-and-ready fashion.

The latest suggestion on the subject we find in John Swinton's Paper of yesterday. Mr. Swinton agrees with the Executive Committee of the Labor party in their estimate of the power of unemployed workmen. He calls them "the unorganized host of idlers," and declares that they are a body more numerous and more powerful than the Knights of Labor, and one which in every strike is always marshalled on the wrong side.—N. Y. Sun.

THE BONDHOLDERS' PROPOSITION.

Confession of the Richmond Dispatch.

[Translated for the Daily Times.]

The recent proposition of the bondholders annoys us very much. We wish they had not made it. We are at a loss for an argument against it. The necessity for an argument against it arises from the fact that we have determined to be diametrically opposite to all that we have ever been before.

If our files represented the successive formations of the earth's crust, the geologist (who is a man that lives in the ground) would be amazed at the sudden and abrupt variations of species that would meet him in a single fossiliferous stratum. Our debt-paying organism in 1881 was as different from our non-debt-paying organism in 1886 as the primitive ancestor of the whale was from his posterity of the present day. We feel, indeed, like a land animal that has become a marine animal in the short space of five years, a transformation for which, according to the scientists, millions of aeons would hardly have been sufficient. Millions of aeons! Just think of it. General Washington has not been dead a whole aeon yet, nor can even the eleventh amendment claim that degree of antiquity.

Or perhaps we feel like an illustration of Darwin's theory of reversion. In 1881 we were a vertebrate of the first order; our backbone was immense; but in 1886 we are a genuine jelly-fish, without a trace of the vertebral column; and as to our cerebral development—well, that is not for us to discuss. We only know that the influences of our environment have been very active and efficient.

But to the proposition:

THE STATE RETAINS ALL THAT SHE NEEDS FOR HER ANNUAL EXPENDITURES, AND WHAT REMAINS IS TO GO TO THE BONDHOLDERS IN THE FORM OF INTEREST.

Could the State herself dictate any better terms, unless she means to repudiate out and out? We really do not see how the State can object, but since we are resolved to be an objector at all hazards, and since it is perfectly clear that we cannot object in the name of the State, we must reflect a moment. Couldn't we object in the name of the party? Eureka! as Columbus said when he discovered America, though the Spaniards didn't understand a word of French. The Riddleberger settlement, acting through the Lynchburg platform, crystallized the policy of the party. Now, when polarized molecules arrange themselves in regular forms, we call the process crystallization. In Virginia certain political molecules, under the crystallizing force of the Lynchburg platform, have placed themselves in certain relations to the future; and if the political crystal should be dissolved in the medium of a sound public policy and new combinations be made, some of these molecules might be left out. In other words, certain slaty formations might be fractured; and hence it is important, in the interest of these molecules, that the present arrangement should not be disturbed. This will do to think over.

We frequently speak of the people as if they were different from the party. But how can there be a party without people? We say the Democratic party was once in favor of paying the debt, but the people would not permit it. It follows, therefore, that the people whipped out the Democratic party, and, if so, it is the people and not the Democratic party that controls the State.

Now, if we admit the right and power of the people to regulate the debt policy of the State, why don't the people dictate who shall be Governor, Senator, and so forth?

We must confess the difficulty of our position is somewhat serious from a logical standpoint.

The fact is if the people and not the officeholders and office-seekers had control of this question it would be settled at once on the liberal terms proposed by the bondholders. The people are neither dishonest nor unreasonable.

We must add by way of explanation that we write our private reflections in a foreign language so that the people cannot understand them. DALETH.

THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICS.

In these degenerate times the man who sternly adheres to his duty ignores the greed of the spoilsman who would use him, and defies the clamor of the ignorant and unreasonable, presents human nature in one of its noblest forms. This Mr. Cleveland is doing.

Of course the venal elements are against him; of course the disappointed are against him. The demagogue, too, ignorant of the real sentiments of the masses, and apparently unconscious of their intelligence and loyalty, echoes what he supposes to be the popular dissatisfaction, but what is really only the noisy outcries of the small politicians of the pothouse and the crossroads.—New York Star.

GOV. GORDON, OF GEORGIA.

His Reply to His Critics.

"You will find, I am sure, unless my language misrepresents my thought and heart, the spirit of a genuine nationality in it as well as of local government. I certainly feel, and intend to express, a deep interest in our whole country. My concern is for lasting national life, which shall permit, also, lasting national and State liberty. The criticisms of extreme papers are not only unjust, but they are also unwise. It is a sad spectacle to find such teachers of American youth declaiming in the interest of party against the doctrines which are not only essential to our system, but also essential to our freedom. It grieves me, not from any personal or party concern, but from far more serious considerations."

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